

Appl. No. 10/697,900
Amdt. dated July 18, 2006
Reply to Office action of June 29, 2006

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

JUL 18 2006

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicants thank the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

In the Claims

Claims 1-28 are pending in this application. Applicants have amended claims 1, 4, 5, 13, 15, 16 and 17. Applicants have canceled claims 2, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 21, 22, 23, and 24. Applicants have added new claims 25, 26, 27 and 28.

Objection of Claims

Claims 5 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-4, 6-16 and 18-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by DeLaCruz (US Patent 6,999,989).

The examiner asserts that DeLaCruz shows a method for managing electronic mail return receipts using audio-visual notification. Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion.

Applicants' present invention provides a monitoring subsystem that would capture all incoming Message Disposition Notification (MDN) messages (return receipts), and rather than posting individual MDN notes in the user's in-box, a tracking and update subsystem correlates the incoming responses by reading the appropriate fields in the captured MDN message, and then uses this data to display the receipt notification in accordance to a format previously determined by the user.

DeLaCruz describes method for providing electronic mail return receipts containing a video of the electronic mail recipient reading the email message. The electronic mail recipient opens an electronic mail message, which initiates recording of the electronic mail recipient. The recording may be terminated when the recipient closes the electronic mail or minimizes the electronic mail message window. Recording may

Appl. No. 10/697,900
Amdt. dated July 18, 2006
Reply to Office action of June 29, 2006

also end after a predetermined amount of time after the electronic mail message is opened.

With regard to claims 1 and 2, the examiner asserts that DeLaCruz shows a method for managing electronic mail return receipts using audio-visual notification comprising the step of determining the type of return receipt notification display. The examiner cites DeLaCruz col. 1, lines 38-41, col. 2, lines 21-26, and col. 4, lines 13-14. Referring to Applicants' specification, shown in Figure 3b is a screen or popup menu for selecting attributes that will control the display of return receipt information to the message initiator. In DeLaCruz, col. 1, lines 38-41 describe a method in which a first user composes an electronic message that specifies at least one recipient from which an electronic mail return receipt is requested. In DeLaCruz, col. 2, lines 21-26 again describe the ability of a message originator to designate one or more email recipients from which the originator would like an electronic mail message return receipt associated with the receipt of electronic mail message by the one or more of the designated electronic mail message recipients. In DeLaCruz, col. 4, lines 13-14 describe a way to detect access to a mail message. As described can be detected in a number of fashions, such as determining when the electronic mail message receiver selects a designated electronic mail message which has a return receipts condition attached to it. Upon detection of access, a signal to initiate video capture of electronic mail message receiver is provided, for example, to a video capturing software facility, which is in communication with a video camera.

As described, the locations in DeLaCruz cited by the examiner describe: 1) features that enable the originator of a message to identify one or more persons from whom the message originator desires/requires a return receipt notification; or to detect the access of an email message. However, contrary to the examiner's assertion, DeLaCruz does not provide the message originator with the ability to define various features of a return receipt display. In fact, DeLaCruz describes a way to display a video picture image of the recipient reading the email message. Applicants' present invention does not display a visual picture image of the recipient reading the message. However, in Applicants' present invention, textual information related to the receipt of the message is

Appl. No. 10/697,900
Amdt. dated July 18, 2006
Reply to Office action of June 29, 2006

displayed. Applicants' invention provides the message originator with the ability (Figure 3b) to select features that will control the format or appearance of the textual information in the display.

The original claim 2 of Applicants' invention contains the step of determining the type of return receipt notification display. In order for DeLaCruz to anticipate a claim in Applicants' present invention under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), DeLaCruz must describe each element of the claim. Contrary to the examiner's assertion that all Applicants' invention elements are disclosed in DeLaCruz (U.S. Patent 6,999,989), the step of determining the type of return receipt notification display as described in the original claim 2 is not, so the rejection of the claim 2 is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitation of claim 2. Therefore, Applicants' further assert DeLaCruz does not anticipate that claim 1 as amended and that the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Applicants have canceled 10 claims and have added four new claims. Applicants believe that no additional search should be required in view of the type of amendments Applicants made to the claims. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections and passage to issuance is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes this reply to be fully responsive to all outstanding issues and place this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at the below listed telephone number. No new fees are believed to be due. However, if any such fees are due, please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 19-0447 (Reference Number AUS920030408US1).

Respectfully Submitted,



Darcell Walker
Reg. No. 34,945
9301 Southwest Freeway, Suite 250
Houston, Texas 77074
713-772-1255
July 18, 2006